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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
11 October 1954

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TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Comment on air shipment of nonferrous metals reported
planned for re-export from Helsinki

REFERENCE:

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While the circumstances of the transaction appear unusual, it is dubious that bloc traders would make so clumsy an attempt to use this channel to obtain the metals, all of which are embargoed under COCOM controls. Bloc countries are continuing to exploit their present well-developed procurement channels to evade Western export controls and obtain substantial quantities of these and other strategic metals. They are also able to procure such metals from Western nations which are not COCOM members.

The amounts reported to have been carried by the plane are very small in terms of the quantities of these metals which the bloc procures from the West. Therefore, if further information should establish that this was actually a case of attempted evasion of export controls, its importance would lie in the effort to establish a new channel for rapid bloc procurement of limited quantities of strategic items rather than in any significant contributions which this one shipment could make to the bloc economy.

State Dept. review completed

SEE REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION

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